The KT
THE KABUL TIMES
www.thekabultimes.com twitter.com/thekabultimes info@thekabultimes.com facebook.com/thekabultimes
Founded in 1962 Saratan 22-1405 Monday 13 July 2026 INo: 93 -Vol: LXIV
DAILY

Kabul 31 Sunny | Kandahar 41 Sunny | Herat 36 Sunny | Jalalabad 38 Sunny | Mazar-e-Sharif 41 Sunny | Bamyan 21 Sunny

IEA Committed to Education, Youth Skills, Deputy PM Says

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, said that the Islamic Emirate is committed to expanding education opportunities for young people and strengthening their skills and capacities.
Speaking at a ceremony honoring the top performers of the 1405 Kankor examination, Hanafi said the Islamic Emirate will provide all necessary facilities to support youth education and enhance their capabilities, according to RTA on Sunday.
He congratulated the successful candidates of the national university entrance examination and highlighted the importance of education in preparing young people to contribute to the country's future development.
Hanafi urged the top achievers to continue their higher education inside Afghanistan, gain professional knowledge, and use their skills to serve the country and its people.
The Kabul Times

Income, Property Taxes Reduced to Support Business Growth, Hanafi Says

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, said that income taxes on individuals and businesses, property transfer taxes, and levies on petroleum products have been reduced under a directive from the Leader of the Islamic Emirate to support economic growth and private sector development.
Speaking at a press conference in Kabul, Hanafi said income tax on legal entities, including companies and hospitals, has been cut by 50 percent. Except for mining extraction companies, all businesses and hospitals that previously paid a 20 percent income tax will now pay 10 percent, according to a statement from Arg on Sunday.
He added that the property transfer tax has been reduced from one to 0.5 percent.Under the revised

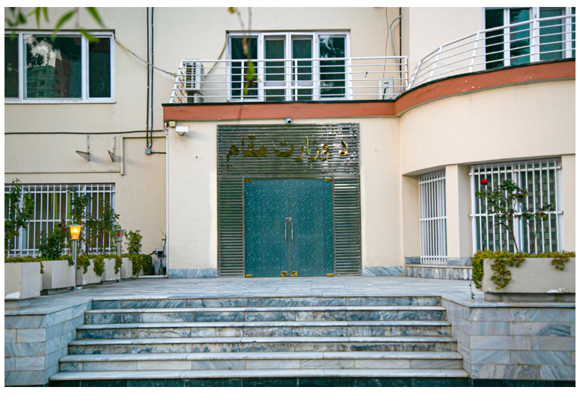
taxation system, major importers of oil and gas will pay AFN 50 per ton sold, while first-, second-, third-, and fourth-tier distributors will pay annual taxes of AFN 100,000, AFN 70,000, AFN 50,000, and AFN 25,000, respectively.
Hanafi said the tax reductions are intended to ease the financial burden on businesses, encourage investment, and promote economic development across the country.
The Kabul Times

Islamic Emirate's Condolence Message on the Death of Former Emir of the State of Qatar

With utmost sorrow and grief, we received the news of the death of the former Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Indeed, we belong to Allah, and to Him we shall return.
The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan extends its sincere condolences and sympathies to the Government of the State of Qatar, and to the family of the deceased Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, and to the fraternal Qatari people, in this grievous affliction.
We ask Almighty God to envelop the deceased in His boundless mercy, to admit him to the highest paradise, and to bestow upon his family and loved ones beautiful patience and ample reward. **The Islamic Emirate**

Afghanistan Advancing in All Sectors, Minister to Kankor Toppers

KABUL: Shaikh Shair Ahmad Haqqani, the Minister of Information and Culture of the Islamic Emirate, said that Afghanistan is making progress across all sectors, including education, with transparency now fully ensured in the national university entrance examination process, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.
Speaking at a ceremony honoring the top performers of the 1405 Kankor examination, Haqqani said the country is moving forward on the path of development and that the examination process is now conducted with complete transparency, ensuring that no candidate's rights are



violated.
He congratulated the outstanding students and all successful Kankor candidates, urging them to work harder throughout their academic careers and use their knowledge and skills to serve the country and its people.**The Kabul Times**

Islamic Emirate Prioritizes Business, Improved Public Services, Azizi

KABUL: Nooruddin Azizi, the country's Minister of Industry and Commerce, said that the Islamic Emirate remains committed to promoting business growth and improving public services by creating a more favorable environment for investment and economic activity.
Speaking at a Ministry of Finance press conference on newly announced tax relief measures, Azizi said facilitating business activities and enhancing services for citizens continue to be among the government's top priorities, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.
He noted that previous tax reductions had contributed to increased government revenues, demonstrating that easing the tax burden can stimulate economic activity while strengthening public finances.
Referring to the recently announced reduction in income tax for businesses, Azizi said the new measures would provide additional incentives for commercial activity and help improve the investment climate.
He called on both domestic and foreign investors to take advantage of the new tax incentives by investing in Afghanistan, saying greater private sector participation would support economic growth, industrial development, and job creation.
The Kabul Times

Third Mawlana Jalaluddin Balkhi Exhibition Opens in Balkh to Draw Investment

KABUL: The Third Mawlana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi Exhibition has been held in Balkh Province, bringing together local producers, industrialists, traders, and investors to showcase domestic products and promote industrial development, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said in a statement on Sunday.
The exhibition, organized by Masih Mohammadi Exhibition Services Company in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the statement said.
Addressing the opening ceremony, the provincial officials praised Afghan producers for creating employment opportunities and stressed the importance of supporting domestic production to strengthen the national economy.
They also called on Afghan investors living abroad to invest in Afghanistan and contribute to economic growth, industrial expansion, and job creation.
The exhibition features locally manufactured products from various sectors across 170 booths and will run for three days, from 20 to 22 of this month of the current solar year at Almas Hotel in Mazar-e-Sharif, the statement said. Organizers say the event aims to promote domestic production, attract investment, showcase the country's industrial potential, and advance efforts toward industrial self-sufficiency.**The Kabul Times**

Tax Revenue Vital to Government Stability, Official

KABUL: Shaikh Noor-ul-Haq Anwar, Director General of the Administrative Office, emphasized the importance of taxation in supporting government operations, according to a statement from Arg on Sunday.
Speaking at the Ministry of Finance's conference on tax relief measures, Shaikh Anwar said taxation plays a fundamental role in the stability and sustainability of governments.
He added that tax collection is a shared responsibility between the government and citizens, with both sides expected to carry out their duties effectively.
At the same event, Sayed Karim Hashemi, Chairman of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said the Islamic Emirate's economic and trade policies have helped offset the challenges created by Pakistan's closure of trade routes.

See P4

Afghan Carpets Exported to 37 Countries

KABUL: Afghanistan's handmade carpet industry continues to expand its global footprint, with locally produced carpets now being exported to 37 countries, the country's Carpet Producers and Exporters Union said in a statement on Sunday.
The country's carpet production capacity has reached nearly 10,000 square meters per month, creating employment for

more than 15,000 people, most of whom are women, the statement said.
The statement added that the Afghan carpets are primarily exported to Türkiye, European countries, the United States, Canada, and several Arab nations.
Industry officials attributed the growing international demand for Afghan carpets to their superior quality, authentic designs, skilled craftsmanship, and the use of natural wool, factors that have helped establish the products as a recognized brand in global markets.
The carpet sector remains one of Afghanistan's most important traditional export industries, contributing to employment generation, export growth, and the preservation of the country's cultural heritage.
The Kabul Times

Kabul Governor, UNAMA Discuss Capital's Development Priorities

KABUL: Mawlavi Aminullah Obaid, Governor of Kabul, in a meeting with Tabita Bogua, Head of UNAMA's Central Region Office, discussed the capital's development priorities and the needs of its residents.
Obaid stressed that close cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and provincial authorities are essential to meeting the basic needs of Kabul's population, RTA reported on Sunday.
Meanwhile, Bogua described Kabul as one of UNAMA's key priorities and reaffirmed the mission's commitment to continuing its assistance based on the actual needs of the people. **The Kabul Times**

International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com

Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash, Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Unity Over Rumors in Badakhshan

In recent weeks, speculation has circulated about supposed tensions between Juma Khan Fateh, a former district governor, and the leadership of the Islamic Emirate. Some media outlets suggested disagreements and even hinted at instability in Badakhshan province. Yet Governor Mohammad Ismail Ghaznavi has firmly rejected these claims, emphasizing that Fateh remains loyal to the system and that no rift exists.

The governor's remarks carry weight because they reaffirm the province's stability at a time when rumors could easily create confusion.

He noted: "Fateh may have had some personal grievances, but he never had any ill intentions toward the system, nor did the system have any ill intentions toward him. This statement reflects the government's broader policy of cohesion and unity, ensuring that personal differences do not undermine collective responsibility.

The governor also stressed that security in Badakhshan remains intact. He assured residents that "no security incident has occurred in Badakhshan, and no one will be allowed to create any security incident."

This commitment highlights the Islamic Emirate's determination to safeguard peace and prevent any disruption. In a province of strategic importance, such assurances strengthen public confidence and demonstrate the government's vigilance.

The presence of Juma Khan Fateh in Faizabad, arriving by Air Force helicopter and publicly declaring his loyalty before returning to Darwaz, further reinforces the message of unity. His actions illustrate that loyalty to the system remains firm, despite rumors. Media outlets should avoid publishing unverified reports that could mislead the public.

At the same time, the episode reflects the challenges of managing narratives in today's information environment. Rumors can spread quickly, but the government's swift response shows its commitment to transparency and stability. By clarifying the situation, officials have demonstrated that cohesion within the Islamic Emirate is strong and that speculation will not be allowed to weaken public trust.

Ultimately, the denial of any rift is not just about one individual, it is about reinforcing the principle that unity and stability are central to Afghanistan's governance.

The Islamic Emirate has consistently emphasized policies of security, cohesion, and development. In Badakhshan, these policies are visible in the government's proactive stance against misinformation and its assurance of peace.

Afghanistan's stability depends not only on preventing incidents but also on maintaining confidence in the system.

By addressing rumors calmly and firmly, the government has shown that it values both security and unity. In doing so, it strengthens the foundation upon which the country's future progress will be built.

Afghanistan: Deepening Agriculture Cooperation with India

By: Romal Sayedi

Afghanistan and India have agreed to expand agricultural cooperation through climate-resilient farming, quality seed systems, irrigation, research and institutional partnerships, with establishing a joint working group to further develop a long-term roadmap for cooperation in agriculture and livestock.

The agreement formalizes bilateral engagement through a standing mechanism focused on seed technology, irrigation and water management.

Beyond its technical scope, the initiative signals continued political engagement between New Delhi and Kabul. Both countries reached the agreement following bilateral talks held in New Delhi on 7 July 2026 between Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mawlawi Ataullah Omari and India's Minister of Agriculture, Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

In news conference held in New Delhi the other day, Ataullah Omari, Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, said that the Afghan delegation had received a warm welcome from Indian officials, expressing hope that the visit would deepen cooperation between the two countries.

Describing India as "Afghanistan good and old friend," Omari said the delegation felt "as if we were in our own country" because of the hospitality it received.

He said Afghanistan hoped to benefit from India's expertise in modernizing and mechanizing its agricultural sector through expanded technical cooperation, investment and knowledge-sharing.

The recent visit resulted in the agreement to establish a joint agricultural working group, which will serve as a permanent mechanism for coordinating cooperation in agriculture and livestock.

Based on media reports, the joint working group will develop a long-term roadmap for collaboration and identify priority areas for future projects.

During their stay in New Delhi, Afghanistan delegation requested India's assistance in transferring advanced seed technologies to improve wheat production.

India said it was prepared to provide high-quality wheat, maize and potato seeds, including climate-resilient and biofortified varieties.

Afghanistan also sought Indian technical support in irrigation, rainwater harvesting and watershed management to help address water shortages and the growing impact of climate-related challenges on agriculture.

Indian officials expressed willingness to share technical expertise in those sectors.

The agreement reflects Afghanistan's continued effort to strengthen agricultural output through external technical cooperation while expanding formal engagement with regional partners. Afghanistan is currently in good engagement with regional countries for boosting and deepening cooperation in various areas, particularly agriculture.

The Afghan delegation's requests in India for improved seed technology, irrigation systems and water-management expertise indicate that increasing agricultural productivity remains Afghanistan government priority.

Establishing a permanent working group can provide Afghanistan with an institutional channel to sustain dialogue with India and demonstrate its capacity to develop practical bilateral partnerships.

If implementation progresses as planned, the agreement is likely to strengthen the political position of both governments too.

For Kabul, successful agricultural cooperation would demonstrate progress in addressing domestic economic priorities while

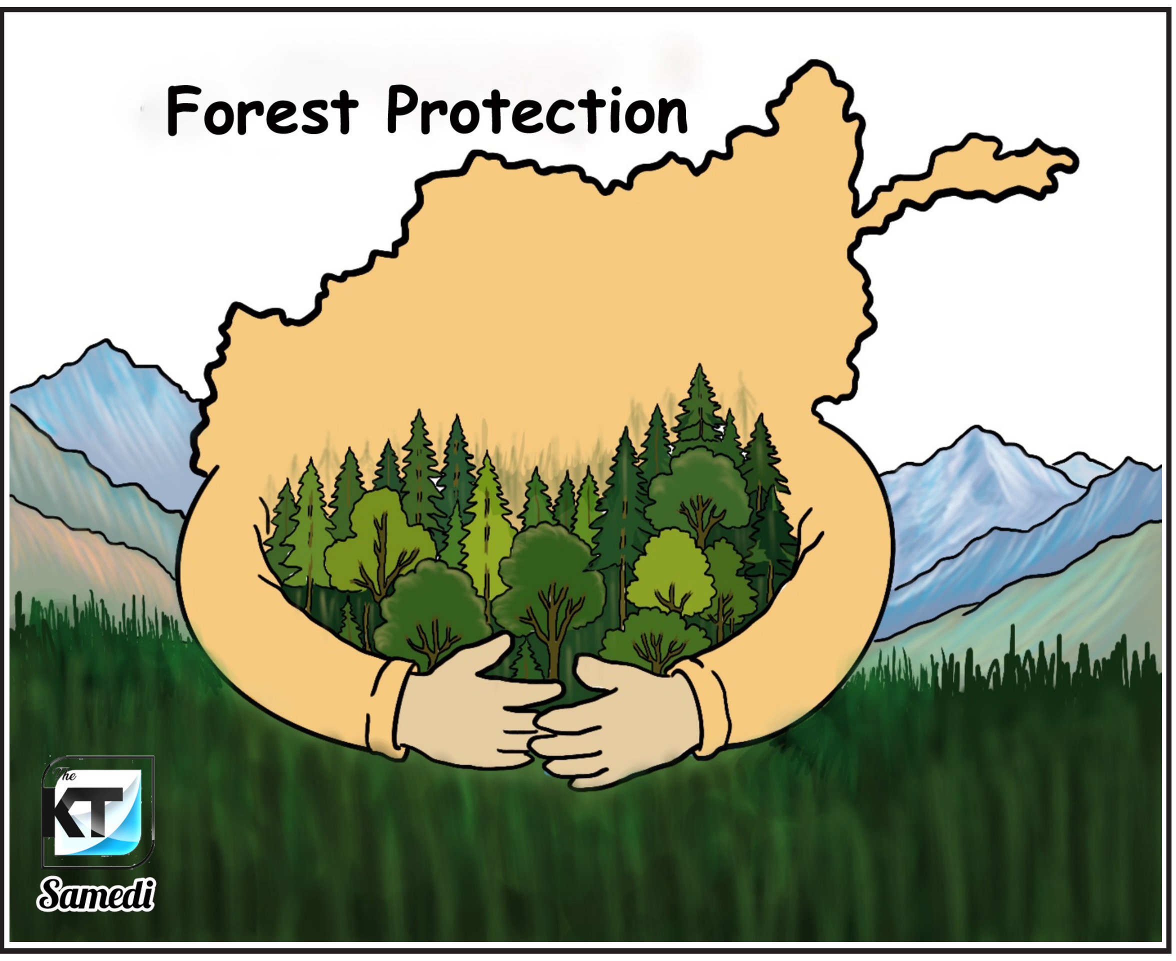
reinforcing the government's ability to maintain functional relationships with regional partners, particularly India, considered as regional power.

Improved seed technology, irrigation practices and water management could increase Afghanistan

agricultural productivity over time, strengthening the country's food production capacity.

With the Islamic Emirate takeover, continued efforts have been in development of various areas, particularly agriculture.

The recent agreement with India will help Afghanistan develop and increase its agricultural products.



Helmand Sees Significant Surge in Animal Feed Production

By: Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Helmand has long been recognized as one of Afghanistan's primary agricultural hubs.
Today, its massive cotton

production is playing an increasingly vital role in driving both the country's industrial sector and its livestock economy.
Following a widespread transition from poppy cultivation to cotton, Helmand's annual yields have soared.
According to data from the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA), the province harvests roughly 80 metric tons of cotton each year, firmly establishing Helmand as a national leader in cotton production.
Local officials note that cotton is a multipurpose powerhouse for Afghanistan's economy.
While its fibers feed the textile and garment industries, its seeds are crushed for cooking oil. The nutrient-dense byproduct left behind after oil extraction—known locally as kanjara (cottonseed cake)—serves as a high-protein feed crucial for cattle, sheep, and other livestock.According to Helmand's commerce and industry authorities, the expansion of local cotton processing factories has triggered a parallel boom in kanjara production. The province is no longer just meeting local demand but is actively supplying neighboring regions. Officials state that around 50 operational cotton factories across the province collectively churn out 110,000 tons of cottonseed cake annually, making Helmand entirely self-sufficient in animal feed production.
In the provincial capital of Lashkargah, factory owners are feeling the momentum.
Hikmatullah, who runs a local processing plant, shares that his facility produces around 400 to 450 parcels of high-quality feed daily to meet a steadily growing market.
"Our product easily beats foreign imports in terms of quality, and our pricing is highly competitive," he says, adding that buyers range from nearby farming communities to long-haul truckers transporting the feed across the country.
Atta Mohammad Akhlaqi, the first deputy of Helmand's Chamber of Commerce, echoes this optimism. He explains that each of the province's 50 industrial units produces roughly 50,000 parcels annually—with each parcel weighing 44 kilograms—culminating in the 110,000-ton provincial total.
"This feed is a vital resource," Akhlaqi remarks.
"It supports farmers not just in Helmand, but in Kandahar, Kabul, Paktia, Nimroz, and beyond."
Despite the production boom, local livestock owners and dairy farmers are feeling a financial pinch.
Many complain that the market price for a parcel of kanjara has doubled from its historical rate of 500 to 600 AFN, now hovering closer to 1,000 to 1,200 AFN.Speaking to a reporter from The Kabul Times, one local dairy farm owner expressed his frustration: "We used to buy a Helmandi man (local weight unit) of feed for 500 or 600 AFN. Now it costs 1,000 AFN. At this rate, we can barely afford to feed our cattle. We urgently need the authorities to step in and regulate these prices."
In response, Hamidullah, a vendor at a local feed distribution market, urges patience and patriotism.

He argues that even with recent price hikes, domestic feed remains significantly cheaper than foreign alternatives.
"This is our own domestic product," he says.
"Even if the price fluctuates slightly, it is still far more affordable than imported feed. Our farmers and citizens need to rally behind local industries."
This domestic growth mirrors Helmand's expanding global footprint.
In June of this year, the provincial Department of Industry and Mines announced that roughly 80,000 metric tons of Helmandi cotton had been exported internationally.
While exports were previously restricted almost entirely to Pakistan, local processing has now modernized to meet international standards, opening doors to markets in China, Turkey, Iran, and Uzbekistan.Rahmatullah Nazari, the head of the department, confirmed that new trade agreements have been finalized, paving the way for even higher export volumes.
This aligns with broader national figures shared by Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, who noted that Afghanistan exported over 104,000 tons of cotton globally in 2025, reaching markets as diverse as Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China, India, the UAE, Iraq, Turkey, and Australia.

Country's Cultivated Land Expands by Over 10 Percent

KABUL: Afghanistan's total cultivated land exceeded three million hectares in 1405, marking a 10.2 percent increase compared to the previous year, the National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said in a statement on Sunday.
The statement said that approximately 2.1 million hectares were irrigated farmland, while nearly 874,000 hectares were rain-fed agricultural land.
Irrigated farmland increased by 3 percent, while rain-fed cultivation rose by 33 percent, largely due to timely rainfall and favorable climatic conditions, the statement said.
Helmand Province recorded the country's largest area of irrigated farmland with about 262,000 hectares, while Takhar Province led in rain-fed cultivation with nearly 157,000 hectares, the statement added.
The expansion of cultivated land reflects improved agricultural conditions and is expected to support higher crop production and strengthen the country's agricultural sector, the statement concluded.
The Kabul Times

Balkh Exhibition Showcases Domestic Strength and Economic Vision

By: Atiqa Arian

The opening of the three-day exhibition in Balkh, named after Mawlana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi, is more than a cultural tribute, it is a statement of Afghanistan's economic aspirations.
With over 170 booths featuring products from Balkh, Kabul, Nangarhar, and Ghazni, the event highlights the growing momentum behind domestic production and the government's efforts to foster industrial growth.
Organizers such as Masih Mohammadi emphasize the scale of participation, noting that companies from across the country have joined to showcase their goods.
This diversity reflects a broader national push to strengthen domestic markets and reduce reliance on imports. For manufacturers, the exhibition is not merely a platform for display; it is a chance to build confidence among consumers.

As Mohammad Nasser Sajedi explained, such events allow producers to demonstrate quality, thereby encouraging Afghans to trust and invest in local products.The enthusiasm among participants underscores the importance of continuity. Sharif Qasemi, representing another manufacturing company, urged the government to expand these exhibitions both inside and outside Afghanistan. His call reflects a recognition that domestic products must not only gain traction locally but also compete regionally and internationally.
By organizing more events, the government can help bridge the gap between producers and consumers, while also opening doors to export opportunities.
Local officials in Balkh have echoed this sentiment, assuring that support programs for manufacturers will continue.
Their commitment is aligned with the Islamic Emirate's economy-focused policy, which prioritizes industrial development, investment encouragement, and export expansion.
Nasir Ahmad Niazi, deputy head of the Balkh Department of Industry and Commerce, articulated this vision clearly: the Emirate is working to promote industrial growth, support domestic production, and expand exports.
This policy framework is crucial for Afghanistan's long-term economic resilience.
Deputy Governor Nurul Hadi Abu Idris reinforced the message by calling on investors, both inside and outside the country, to contribute to Afghanistan's economic development.
His appeal reflects a broader strategy: attracting investment to stimulate production, create jobs, and strengthen the national economy.
The government's emphasis on investment is not only about capital but also about confidence, confidence that Afghanistan can provide a stable environment for business growth.
The exhibition itself serves as a microcosm of this vision.
By bringing together producers from multiple provinces, it demonstrates the potential of collective effort.
It also highlights the role of exhibitions in fostering networks, building trust, and encouraging innovation.
For Afghanistan, where economic development has long been constrained by instability, such initiatives represent a tangible step toward recovery and growth.
Equally important is the symbolic dimension.
Naming the exhibition after Mawlana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi connects economic progress with cultural heritage, reminding participants that Afghanistan's identity is rooted in both tradition and innovation. This blend of cultural pride and economic ambition strengthens the narrative of self-reliance.The government's role in this process cannot be overstated.
By supporting exhibitions, encouraging investment, and promoting domestic production, the Islamic Emirate is positioning itself as a driver of economic transformation.
While challenges remain—ranging from infrastructure limitations to market access, the commitment to industrial growth is evident.
The Balkh exhibition is not just a local event; it is a reflection of national policy and a signal of Afghanistan's determination to build a self-sustaining economy.

Foreign Ministry Extends Condolences to Bangladesh Over Deadly Floods

KABUL: The Islamic Emirate's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement on Sunday, expressed its condolences to the government and people of Bangladesh following the deadly floods that claimed dozens of lives and displaced thousands.
In a message posted on X, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abdul Qahar Balkhi conveyed the Islamic Emirate's deep sympathy to the Bangladeshi government, the families of the victims, and all those affected by the disaster.
The ministry also wished a speedy recovery for those injured in the floods.

The devastating floods have reportedly killed dozens of people and forced thousands more to flee their homes across Bangladesh.
The Kabul Times

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY
Saratan 22-1405 Monday 13 July 2026 INo: 93-Vol: LXIV

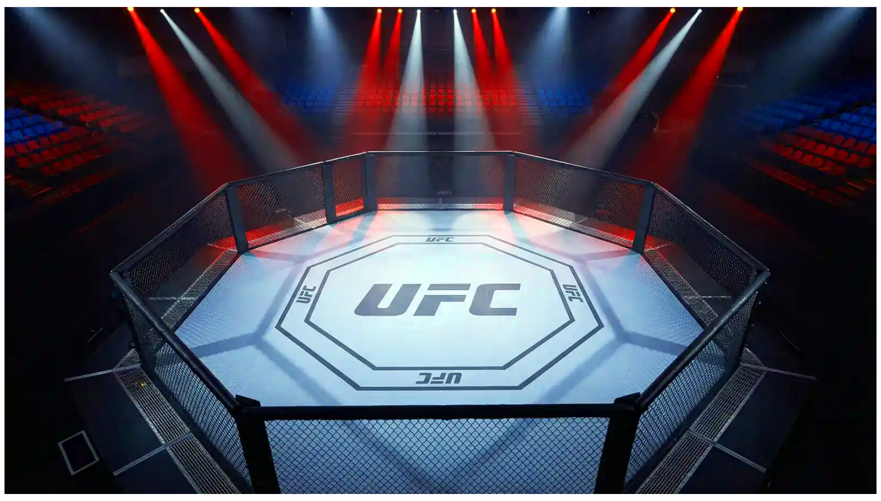
The Kabul Times – the state-run newspaper–welcomes your advertisements. You can send your ADs to the daily to help you connect with your customers.
+93 700 330 184 Aryagulzar833@gmail.com

USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
65.60	85.40	746	229	74.60	0.37	17.87

SPORTS

Afghan MMA Star Farid Basharat Secures Decisive UFC Victory, Maintains Undefeated Streak

Afghan mixed martial artist Farid Basharat continued his impressive ascent in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) with a commanding victory over American fighter John Garza. Facing off in a highly anticipated matchup, Basharat put on a tactical clinic, showcasing the discipline and calculated precision that have quickly become his trademarks in the Octagon.



From the opening round, Basharat established control over the tempo of the fight. He systematically neutralized his opponent's offense while enforcing his own game plan, leaving little room for Garza to find a rhythm. Basharat's ability to dictate where the fight took place and consistently land meaningful strikes earned him the clear favor of the judges. When the final horn sounded, the judges handed down a well-deserved decision victory in favor of the Afghan standout.

This latest triumph further solidifies Basharat's standing as one of the most promising bantamweight contenders in the promotion.

Prior to stepping into the cage against Garza, he boasted an exceptional record of 15 consecutive victories without a single loss.

By neutralizing Garza, Basharat successfully preserved his flawless, undefeated professional record, proving that he can handle the mounting pressure of the world's premier MMA stage.

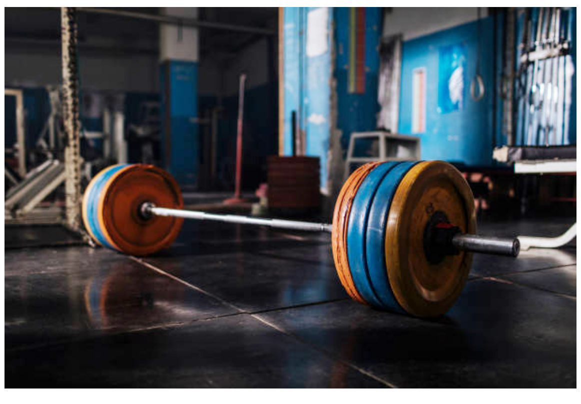
As one of Afghanistan's most prominent figures in international sports, Basharat's success continues to captivate MMA fans globally. With a perfect record still intact and a fighting style that blends technical maturity with composure, he is rapidly transforming from a rising prospect into a serious force to be reckoned with in the UFC.

The Kabul Times

Helmand Hosts Bodybuilding & Fitness Championship

A bodybuilding and fitness championship was held in Lashkargah, the capital of Helmand province, bringing together 95 athletes who competed for top honors in front of sports officials and fans.

The event was organized by the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in Helmand and was attended by Mawlavi Ahmadullah Wasiq, Director General of the Sports Administration, Hafiz Ahmad Jan Zadran, Deputy for Technical and Professional Affairs, and



a number of other officials.

Athletes took part in several rounds of competition, showcasing their strength, physical fitness, and years of hard work.

After a close contest, Aminullah was named "Mr. Helmand" for his outstanding performance, while Ehsanullah won the "Junior Helmand" title in the youth category.

Officials said the championship also played an important role in identifying talented athletes for the provincial team.

Following the final assessments, ten athletes were selected to join the Helmand Bodybuilding and Fitness Team and will represent the province in future national competitions.

The event was welcomed by participants and sports officials as an important step toward promoting bodybuilding and supporting young athletes in Helmand.

The Kabul Times

Powerhouses Collide as 2026 World Cup Semifinals Are Set

The 2026 World Cup has reached its thrilling penultimate stage, with France, Spain, Great Britain, and Argentina locking in their spots in the semifinals after a grueling quarterfinal round.

France punch their ticket by overcoming Morocco, Spain edged out Belgium, Great Britain dispatched Norway, and Argentina put an end to Switzerland's run.

The stage is now set for two blockbusters in the United States.

On Tuesday, July 14, heavyweights France and Spain will clash at the Dallas Stadium. France will heavily rely on an in-form Kylian Mbappé to carry their final aspirations, while Spain counters with teenage sensation Lamine Yamal and late-goal specialist Mikel Merino.

The drama continues on Wednesday, July 15, at the Atlanta Stadium, where Great Britain meets Argentina.

Fans will treat themselves to a masterclass featuring Great Britain's talismanic duo of Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham going head-to-head against Lionel Messi's Argentina.

According to Opta predictions, France stands as the tournament favorite with a 33% chance of lifting the trophy, followed closely by Spain at 27%, with Argentina and England rounding out the contenders. With the grand finale scheduled for July 19, these upcoming matches promise pure footballing drama. **The Kabul Times**

Shaikh Nadeem Vows to Address Private Universities' Challenges

KABUL: Shaikh Neda Mohammad Nadeem, the Minister of Higher Education, has

pledged continued cooperation with private universities to address their challenges and support the development of Afghanistan's higher education sector.

Speaking at a meeting with officials from private universities, Nadeem reviewed the concerns and proposals of university representatives, emphasizing the importance of justice, transparency, and protection of rights within the higher education system, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.

According to the statement, representatives of the Private Universities Union and officials from various institutions raised challenges related to faculty recruitment, the establishment of academic programs, curriculum development, and quality assurance processes.

Nadeem assured participants that necessary measures would be taken to address the issues raised and resolve existing challenges.

He also stressed that mutual rights and responsibilities among all stakeholders would be respected, adding that joint cooperation would continue to strengthen the quality, development, and progress of Afghanistan's higher education system.

The Kabul Times

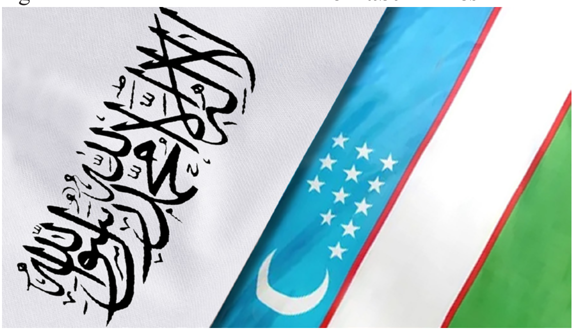
The Kabul Times

Kabul, Tashkent Discuss Expanding Mining Investment, Economic Cooperation

KABUL: Mullah Hedayatullah Badri, the Minister of Mines and Petroleum of the Islamic Emirate, in a meeting with Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Kabul, Oybek Usmanov, discussed expanding bilateral cooperation and increasing investment in Afghanistan's mining sector, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.The two sides reviewed ways to strengthen trade and economic relations and enhance cooperation in the development of Afghanistan's mineral resources, the statement said.The Uzbek ambassador expressed the interest of investors from his country in investing in Afghanistan's mining sector.

Badri welcomed the interest and reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to providing full cooperation and the necessary facilities to attract, support, and encourage foreign investment in the country's mineral resources.

The Kabul Times



Taxpayer Contributions Drive Government Services, Finance Minister Says

KABUL: The country's Finance Minister Mullah Mohammad Nasser Akhund said taxpayer contributions remain the primary source of funding for Afghanistan's public administration, underscoring the government's commitment to improving tax collection and expanding relief measures for taxpayers.Speaking at a Ministry of Finance press conference announcing new tax reductions, Akhund said the country's affairs are administered through revenues generated from taxes paid by citizens, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.He noted that the ministry has introduced a range of measures to simplify tax payment procedures, making it easier for individuals and businesses to meet their tax obligations.The finance minister

added that since the Islamic Emirate's return to power, the government has implemented 13 types of tax relief measures to support taxpayers and encourage economic activity.

Akhund said the government remains committed to continuing tax reforms that reduce the burden on taxpayers while ensuring sustainable public revenues to finance government services and national development.

The Kabul Times

Paktika's Tourist Sites Surveyed to Boost Investment, Tourism, Ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement on Sunday that its delegation has surveyed tourist attractions in Paktika Province as part of efforts to promote investment and attract more domestic and international visitors.

During the visit, the delegation, accompanied by officials from the provincial Directorate of Information and Culture, documented and assessed several recreational and tourism sites across the province, the statement said.

Mullah Mohammad Amin Huzayfa, Director of Information and Culture of Paktika, said the survey aims to encourage investment by both the ministry and the private sector while showcasing the province's tourism potential to local and foreign visitors.

He called on national investors to invest in Paktika's well-known tourist destinations, saying such investments would strengthen the tourism sector and create employment opportunities for local communities.

According to the statement, some of Paktika's prominent tourist attractions include Paltuni Dam and scenic areas in the districts of Giyan, Ziruk, Sarobi, and Urgun.

The Kabul Times

Tax Revenue Vital to Government Stability...

From P1

Hashemi stated that the closures have inflicted greater economic losses on Pakistan than Afghanistan, adding that Pakistan continues to suffer significant financial setbacks.

He also described the newly announced tax reductions as a positive step toward strengthening commercial activities and urged citizens to pay their taxes on time to support the country's economy.

The Kabul Times